

Dear Jan-Peter Toennies

My warmest congratulations on your birthday, may you stay healthy and lively for a much longer time! I am really delighted that we are coming together once again for a symposium in your honour.

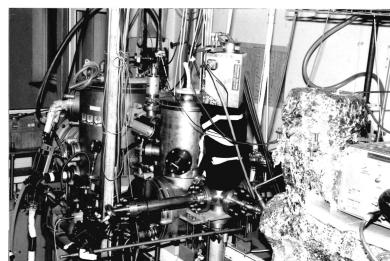
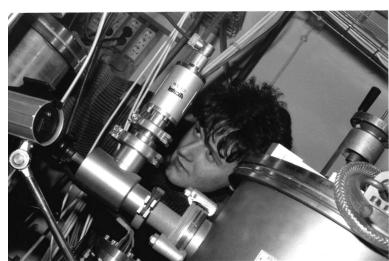
My time as a young graduate student in your department at the MPI lasted only two years, but it was an extremely intense and formative period for me. During that time, I gained many new experiences and learned a lot during this time.

One particular incident with you remains especially memorable: one evening, around 7:00 pm, I met you in the corridor outside my lab. You were surprised that no one else from the department was still around. It was hard for you to understand why everybody had already gone home and were not taking advantage of the opportunity to continue working on their research projects—after all, who knows if they would have such chances again later in their careers. In fact, I was only there by chance to check a parameter on my experiment. I actually wanted to quickly rejoin most members of your research group to play football together. As you know, we not only conducted intensive research back then but also formed a great team. I truly appreciated that.

My journey has taken me in a completely different research direction. I now head a biological section at the Alfred Wegener Institute, where we investigate the consequences of climate change on marine organisms. Nevertheless, there are many parallels to my time in your department; we use several imaging methods that I first learnt about at the MPI and work with equipment that is similarly complex to our experimental apparatus at the time. So, there are always moments when I remember my time at the MPI and in particular this evening meeting with you. This is also or especially because I was lucky enough to be able to continue working in research.

With warm regards,

Yours Christian Bock



Christian Bock MPI 1991

2025 during AWI HGF evaluation